

powerful block is formed in the water. It will survive even in summer, provided a mixture of air and nitrogen is blown through the upper layer of tubes. Such a non-thawing ice block may be firmly attached to the sea bottom by freezing, so that no drifting ice hummocks will be able to move it. It may also be very easily repaired by sprinkling it with water or pouring water on it in layers.

- Has such an ice island been build already?

- My students have constructed a model for full-scale tests in Amderma, but there has been no further progress so far, although the construction met with interest at the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Navy, and the Ministry of Gas Industry of the USSR. There were many positive responses and even an offer to create an ice platform at Cape Kharasavei on the Yamal peninsula in the gas-rich region of the Arctic. But suddenly they cooled off. Why? Apparently, because somebody is reluctant to expend the effort. It is much more simple to buy abroad a ready-made metal drilling platform - no special worries, no problems, just pay, and a pretty high price at that! The money is not his, earned by the sweat of his brow, it is the state's, so why should he worry?

- Often I think about the following: ,in order to prove his theory, the scientist conducts hundreds of experiments and organizes, often dangerous, expeditions to faraway places. During my first winter in the Arctic, I witnessed a terrible drama when a polar bear attacked one of our co-workers and mauled him to death. In Antarctica, during an expedition to the center of the mainland, I lost my student and friend, the young scientist